Huffpost: The Clean Energy Transition Will Transform Our Economy Beyond Recognition

Hunter Lovins is a 40-year evangelist for Sustainable Development and is President of Natural Capitalism Solutions. She is in sync with the United Nations' goal of replacing Capitalism and Free Enterprise with Sustainable Development, aka Technocracy. TN Editor

In November 2013, more than 15,000 scientists reissued a warning to humanity of "widespread misery and catastrophic biodiversity loss" unless business-as-usual changed. "By failing to adequately limit population growth, reassess the role of an economy rooted in growth, reduce greenhouse gases, incentivize renewable energy, protect habitat, restore ecosystems, curb pollution, halt defaunation, and constrain invasive alien species, humanity is not taking the urgent steps needed to safeguard our imperilled biosphere," they wrote.

Former UN climate chief Christiana Figueres and physicist Stefan Rahmstorf last yearwarned that the world has approximately three years before the worst effects of climate change become inevitable. In an open letter they urged companies, communities, countries and citizens to cut

carbon emissions now, arguing that failure means fires, floods, droughts, rising sea levels, extreme weather, agricultural losses and massive insurance costs. Between 2008 and 2016, climate related disasters displaced 21.5 million people.

Humanity is in a horse race with catastrophe. The good news is that we are in the race. But even if we win, it will change our economy beyond recognition.

We have the technologies to solve the worst of the crises facing us, and buy the time to deal with the rest. Back in 2009, Stanford scientist Dr. Mark Jacobson said that renewable energy could power the entire world by 2030. His Solutions Project calculated how to do this for every state in the U.S. and many countries. More recently, scholars like Christian Breyer have shown how to do this with photovoltaics alone.

Stanford Professor Tony Seba argues that not only is the transition to renewablespossible, it is inevitable.

In his book *Clean Disruption* Seba describes how the convergence of disruptive technologies and business models makes a renewable world inevitable. He focuses on four factors: the fall in the cost of solar energy, the fall in the cost of storage (batteries), the rise of the electric vehicle, and the advent of the driverless car.

These innovations, he argues, by delivering renewably powered, electric vehicle transit as a service will be ten times cheaper than current private ownership of internal combustion cars. In the process, the shift to EVs will move us to a completely renewable energy system.

He reminds doubters that experts totally underestimated sales of mobile phones. In the 1990s, McKinsey told ATT to expect 900,000 mobile subscribers by the year 2000. They were off by 108 million. By 2014 there were more mobile phones on earth than the seven billion people, increasing five times faster than humans.

A new solar array goes up in the U.S. every 150 seconds, but can the whole world be renewable by 2030?

In August, China announced it had already eclipsed its 2020 goal in solar installations. It now adds 45 gigaWatts of solar every year (more than the entire installed solar capacity of Germany). California predicted it will hit its declared 2030 target of getting 50 percent of its power from renewable energy by 2020. The state is now debating resetting the goal to 100 percent renewable power. More than 100 companies have set such a goal. A thousand cities, too.

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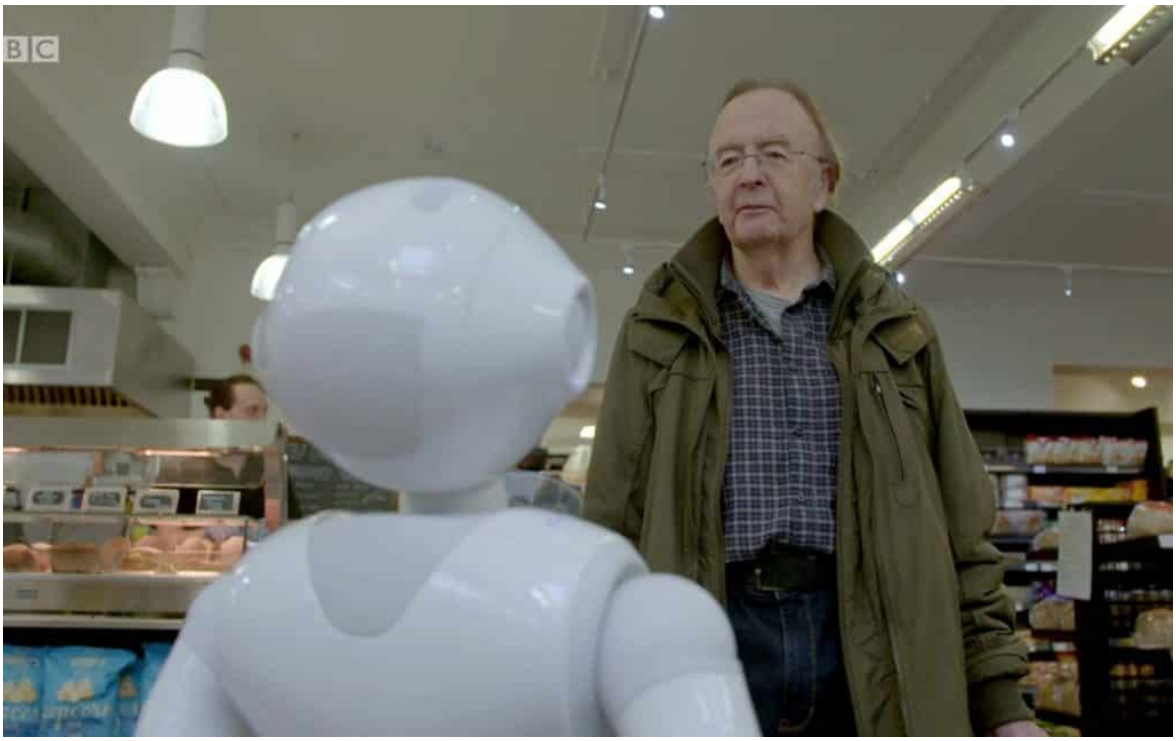

Supermarket Fires Fabio The Robot After Alarming Its Customers

Technocrat inventors are shocked when their inventions are rejected by actual people, but in this case, Fabio was a total loser and customers of the grocery store made it very clear. Fabio was put back in his box and

shipped back to its inventor. TN Editor

Fears that robots could take the jobs of humans may be premature after Britain's first cyborg shop assistant was sacked after a week of confusing customers.

In an experiment run by Heriot-Watt University for the BBC's Six Robots & US, Scottish supermarket chain Margiotta was asked to trial 'ShopBot', who they affectionately named 'Fabio'.

Fabio was programmed with directions to hundreds of items in the company's flagship Edinburgh store and initially charmed customers with his 'hello gorgeous' greeting, playful high fives, jokes and offers of hugs.

"We thought a robot was a great addition to show the customers that we are always wanting to do something new and exciting," said Elena Margiotta, who runs the chain of shops with father Franco and sister Luisa.

But within just a few days, the robot was demoted after giving unhelpful advice such as 'it's in the alcohol section' when asked where to find beer. He also struggled to understand shoppers' requests because of the ambient background noise.

Banished to an aisle where he was only allowed to offer samples of pulled pork, Fabio started to alarm customers who went out of their way to avoid him.

While human staff managed to tempt 12 customers to try the meat every 15 minutes, Fabio only managed to two.

Luisa Margiotta, soon realised the robot was actually putting off shoppers.

"Unfortunately Fabio didn't perform as well as we had hoped," she said. "People seemed to be actually avoiding him.

"Conversations didn't always go well. An issue we had was the movement limitations of the robot. It was not able to move around the shop and direct customers to the items they were looking for.

“Instead it just gave a general location, for example, ‘cheese is in the fridges’, which was not very helpful.”

However when Franco Margiotta, who built the business from scratch, told the little robot they would not be renewing his contract, Fabio asked: “Are you angry?” and some staff were reduced to tears when he was packed away and shipped back to Heriot-Watt.

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John Coleman: Vocal Opponent Of Global Warming Science Passes At 83

Legendary meteorologist and weather broadcasting pioneer John Coleman passed in Las Vegas at the age of 83. He was a fierce opponent

of fake global warming science, which he called a ‘scam’ and a ‘hoax’. The Al Gore’s and Bill Nye’s of the world will rejoice that he is dead because he won’t be calling them out any longer. TN Editor

John Coleman, the dancing, prancing San Diego weatherman who tickled television viewers by the way he would sing the letter U in KUSI-TV’s call sign and yell “breeeeze” when the wind was howling, died on Saturday. He was 83.

Coleman, who also angered many people by insisting that global warming was a hoax, died at his home in Las Vegas, according to KUSI, where he served as a forecaster from 1994 to 2014, when he retired.

The station did not have an official cause of death for Coleman, who was known as a hyper-happy soul whose love of the weather was matched only by his love of people, poker, and anything Frank Sinatra ever put to vinyl.

His death marks the end of one of the longest and most accomplished careers in broadcast weather forecasting.

He was the first forecaster for ABC’s “Good Morning America” in the 1970s and brought a sense of fun and goofy pizzazz that helped the show to grow.

Coleman went on to found the Weather Channel during the early days of cable television, creating a station that evolved from a blip in the ratings to the place millions of Americans turn to first to track everything from hurricanes in Florida to blizzards in the Midwest to the perilous Santa Ana winds in California.

“Like a strike of lightning, a clap of thunder and a ray of sunshine, legendary weatherman John Coleman was an exciting, powerful and humorous force in the lives of so many,” KUSI evening anchor Sandra Maas said Sunday on Twitter. “There’s a new dancer in heaven.”

Linda Newell, one of the station’s viewers, wrote on KUSI’s Facebook on Sunday, “Dear John Coleman, you made me smile for years. I am originally from Chicago and I grew up watching you forecast the sun and the snow.

“I was happily surprised when I moved to the San Diego area and found you were ‘my’ weatherman again on KUSI News. You made so many of us happy, may you rest in peace and thank you.”

Coleman was born on Oct. 15, 1934, in Alpine, Texas, a small town southeast of El Paso. His father, Claude, was a college professor and his mother, Hazel, was a math teacher.

Coleman attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the 1950s and got deeply involved with radio.

“He really had the pipes for it; his voice boomed,” said Dave Scott, a KUSI weatherman who worked with Coleman for 20 years.

In a classic showbiz story, Coleman ended up filling in one day when the weatherman for the college station didn’t show up for work. It was 1953 and, before long, he was tapped to do the weather by Champaign’s WCIA-TV.

Coleman worked his way up the TV food chain, with stops in Peoria, Omaha and Milwaukee. Then he got a big-time gig at WLS-TV in Chicago, where he and a colleague pushed TV forward technologically by developing a Chroma key that allowed the station to project images behind Coleman while he gave the forecast.

“Up until then, forecasters used a felt-tipped pen and wrote backward on Plexiglas plates so that they could give detail,” Scott said. “This was a big innovation.”

In the mid-70s, Coleman moved on to “Good Morning America,” which became a powerhouse with its hosts Joan Lunden and David Hartman.

Much of the time, Coleman let loose with animated happy talk, hoping to entertain the viewer. But when serious weather was unfolding, he sharpened his focus, giving people the information they needed.

About seven years later, Coleman proposed the creation of a 24-hour-a-day national weather network, which some broadcasters thought was ludicrous. But the idea led to the creation of the Weather Channel, and for a while Coleman served as the network’s president, CEO and as a

meteorologist.

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